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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	CONTINUATION OF
	)	SERIAL NO: 09/654,365
Huaichuan H. JIN et al	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 2175
Serial No.: _____	)	Examiner: Apu M. Mofiz
	)	
Filed: EVEN DATE HEREWITH	)	Customer No.: 32127
	)	
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS	)	
FOR SCORE NORMALIZATION	)	
FOR INFORMATION RETRIEVAL	)	
APPLICATIONS	)	

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This preliminary amendment accompanies the filing of a continuation application under 37 CFR § 1.53(b).

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page 5 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 17 of this paper.